MARVEL
ALPHA
CATES
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HULK VS. THOR
BANNER OF WAR
PART 1
ANDERSON
60 YEARS
60 YEARS

HULK has recently undergone a dramatic transformation. His alter ego, Bruce Banner, has somehow managed to split the Hulk into three distinct parts: The Hulk's body has been turned into a starship. Banner's psyche pilots it from within the Hulk's mind. And the Hulk's psyche fuels the starship with his anger, which Banner harnesses by locking the Hulk in the "Engine Room" and sending escalating levels of opponents for him to fight.

THOR is the king of Asgard, having recently taken over for his father, Odin. He is struggling to balance his role as the All-Father with his role as one of Earth's mightiest heroes on the Avengers.

HULK VS. THOR

BANNER OF WAR

PART ONE OF FIVE

BRUCE BANNER, more convinced than ever of the damage his presence causes those around him, wants nothing more than to fly the Starship Hulk as far away from civilization as possible. But Banner is accused of murdering a bar full of patrons in El Paso, Texas, and the Avengers are determined to bring him to justice.

Meanwhile, **THOR** has been dealing with one reality-threatening problem after another, and he is consumed with anger at his father, who he blames for many of those problems. And now even after his father died in battle, Thor finds he can't escape him, as Odin's spirit now inhabits Mjolnir.

So Thor is eager to find a release for all this pent-up aggression. Thankfully, he is about to...

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GREETINGS. I...AM *THE WATCHER.*
MY SWORN DUTY...IS TO WITNESS AND CATALOG SUCH... SEISMIC EVENTS THAT WOULD SHAPE AND ALTER THE COURSE OF HISTORY ITSELF.
I AM CALLED *UATU.*
AND I AM HERE TO BEAR WITNESS TO THE *GREATEST BATTLE* THAT ANY WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN. A BATTLE BETWEEN TWO *LEGENDARY* AND *UNBREAKABLE* FOES...
THE MIGHTY THOR. AND *THE INCREDIBLE HULK.*
THESE TWO LEVIATHANS HAVE FOUGHT IN THE PAST, THIS IS TRUE...
BUT NOT LIKE THIS.
NO. THIS TIME...RAGE AND THUNDER SHALL COLLIDE IN A WAR SO BRILLIANT AND AWESOME THAT STORIES OF IT WILL BE SUNG FOR UNTOLD MILLENNIA.
MAKE NO MISTAKE-- THIS...
...THIS IS A BATTLE UNLIKE ANY YOU HAVE EVER SEEN.
BUT FIRST...
ALLOW ME TO BRING YOU UP TO SPEED, AS IT WERE...

"AFTER THE WAR OF THE REALMS, ODIN GAVE THE CROWN AND THRONE OF ASGARD TO HIS SON THOR.
"IN HIS BRIEF TIME AS KING, THOR HAS BEEN MET WITH CHALLENGES THAT WOULD HAVE BENT LESSER BEINGS TO THEIR KNEES.
"IN THE BEGINNING... THERE WAS GALACTUS...
"...AND THE DIRE REVELATIONS THAT LAY WITHIN THE ENTITY THAT CALLED ITSELF THE BLACK WINTER...
"IN THE END, THOR DESTROYED GALACTUS IN A GRAND ACT OF DEFIANCE.
"HE ALSO KILLED THE BLACK WINTER. OR... SO HE THOUGHT...
"(THAT FATE IS NOT FOR ME TO SPEAK OF AND IS A TALE FOR ANOTHER TIME...)
"AND THEN THERE WERE THE VISIONS. OF THE MAD TITAN...OF THE ENTROPY OF EXISTENCE...
"...THE EMERGENCE OF THE GOLDEN SHADOW--OF DONALD BLAKE, DRIVEN MAD AND TRAPPED. NOW CHAINED FOREVER UPON THE ROCK OF ETERNITY...
"...AND THEN...THE CRUELEST OF ALL OF THE THUNDER KING'S TRIALS...
"...THE POSSESSION OF MJOLNIR BY THE BILLION RAGING SOULS OF THE MANGOG...
"A BATTLE WON...BUT AT A GREAT PRICE. MJOLNIR SHATTERED.
"AND ODIN...THOR'S FATHER AND THE FORMER RULER OF THE LAND OF ASGARD...
"...LAY DEAD IN THOR'S VERY ARMS.
"BUT...NOT GONE.
"ODIN'S SOUL BECAME TRAPPED IN MJOLNIR ITSELF.
"SPEAKING IN A VOICE THAT ONLY THOR CAN HEAR.
"AND SO IT WAS...THAT A GRIEVING, VENGEFUL KING WAS TOLD BY HIS RAVENS THAT THE HULK HAD BEEN FOUND IN A LAND FAR FROM THOSE THAT HE HAD KNOWN.
"A TIMELY GIFT FOR A GOD IN DESPERATE NEED OF SOMETHING TO HIT.

"AND THEN THERE IS BRUCE BANNER.
"AND THE HULK.
"AND THE ENGINE ROOM.
"RECENTLY, BRUCE BANNER--WITH THE HELP OF SOME UNSEEN MAGICAL HAND--HAS BUILT A *MIND PALACE* INSIDE OF THE HULK'S BODY.
"HE HAS ASSUMED CONTROL OF THE PHYSICAL FORM OF THE HULK AND NOW *'PILOTS'* THIS...*HULK SHIP* FROM THE DECK OF HIS COMMAND CENTER.
"THE SHIP ITSELF IS POWERED BY THE HULK'S OWN PERSONA...
"...TRAPPED IN THE *'ENGINE ROOM'* AND TORTURED BY A SERIES OF NEVER-ENDING AND ALWAYS-GROWING ADVERSARIES.
"IN SHORT...
"...THE HOTTER THE ENGINE ROOM BURNS...
"...THE STRONGER THE HULK SHIP BECOMES.
9 8 7 6 5 4
"IT WAS WITH THIS POWER THAT BRUCE SET OUT TO SEARCH THROUGH THE MULTIVERSE OF DIMENSIONS TO FIND A PLACE OF SOLACE.
"SOMEWHERE THE HEROES OF EARTH COULD NOT FIND HIM...
"...COULD NOT PERSECUTE HIM FOR HIS CRIMES IN A PLACE CALLED *EL PASO*...
"WHATEVER THE TRUTH ABOUT THESE CRIMES IS...
"...EVEN *I* DO NOT KNOW...
"BUT PERHAPS WE SHALL SOON FIND OUT...
"...BECAUSE...IN THIS VERY MOMENT...
"...AGAINST A BATTLEGROUND OF STRANGE AND UNSEEN WORLDS...
"...ROARING ACROSS THE IN-BETWEEN SPACES OF REALITY...
"...IT IS HERE...

"...THAT OUR STORIES COLLIDE."
STOP THIS, BANNER!
I KNOW YOU CAN HEAR ME! SOMEWHERE DEEP INSIDE!
CONTROL YOUR RAGE AND--
THOR.
SHUT UP.
WHUMP

"SAKK-REEN.
"A WRETCHED PLANET FILLED WITH DISEASE-PLAGUED, WAR MONGERING CANNIBALS THAT DEVOUR THE EYES OF THEIR YOUNG TO APPEASE THEIR ALL-KNOWING PAIN GOD.
"IT SMELLS OF COTTON CANDY. AND PUPPY PAWS. AND THE PAIN GOD IS ALWAYS HAPPY."
BOOOM
BOOOOM
I CAN HEAR YOU JUST FINE.

GET UP, BOY! IF THE APE WANTS A BATTLE, THEN LET'S--
WILL YOU LET ME HANDLE THIS, FATHER?
HE'S CLOSING IN!
I NEED A FULL SYSTEM AND ENGINE CHECK.
COMPUTER, RUN A DIAGNOSTIC ON HULL INTEGRITY BEFORE WE--
THIS ISN'T GOING TO BE LIKE THE OTHER FIGHTS, BRUCE.
DAMMIT, BOY, JUST LISTEN TO ME! LET ME LOOSE AND I'LL--
THERE ARE INNOCENT CREATURES ON THIS PLANET! I WILL NOT ALLOW YOU TO WAGE ALL-OUT WAR UNTIL--
OH, GROW UP AND GET TO WORK, SON! THIS PLANET WILL--
NAY, DAMN YOU! SIF WILL FIND US A SUITABLE PLACE FOR COMBAT AND--
YOU'VE DONE THIS BEFORE. DO YOU *REALLY* THINK YOU CAN BEAT HIM THIS TIME? AFTER EVERYTHING THAT--
ENOUGH, "*BETTY*"! JUST--
--LEAVE ME ALONE!!!
--THAT IS FINAL!

WHO ARE YOU TALKING TO?
WHO ARE YOU TALKING TO?
AGHHH!!
AYE! THAT'S MORE LIKE IT!

OKAY. LET'S DO THIS.
KLK
BANNER!!!
I AWAIT YOUR ORDERS, THOR. GIVE ME A PLACE. ANYWHERE!
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR, BOY?! LET'S TEAR THIS EMERALD IDIOT INTO--
SIF!!! ANYWHERE!!! SOMEWHERE WE CAN DO BATTLE SAFELY!!!
BUT DO IT NOW!!!
um...
...OKAY...
WOOOOM

BWAAAAAAH
"THE BLACK HAND OF GOD.
"BUILT FROM THE SEVERED HAND OF A CELESTIAL, IT IS HOME TO THE GREATEST AND MOST GRUESOME FIGHTING TOURNAMENTS ANY UNIVERSE HAS EVER KNOWN.
"WHERE GALACTIC FORTUNES ARE WON AND LOST BY THE TEARING OF FLESH, THE SPEED OF THE BLADE, OR THE METTLE OF A WARRIOR'S HEART.
BOOOOM
BOOM
"HERE, CHAMPIONS ARE FORGED FOREVER IN BLOOD AND BONE. THEIR NAMES CARVED INTO THE HALLS OF ETERNITY.
"IT IS KNOWN BY ALL WHO QUEST ACROSS THE STARS AS THE MOST VIOLENT, VICIOUS AND GORE-SOAKED CORNER OF HELL TO EVER EXIST IN THE MULTIVERSE."
SIF... WHERE HAVE YOU...?
UM...WELL, IT WOULD SEEM WE HAVE SOME NEW CHALLENGERS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN!!!
THE POPCORN IS... ALSO QUITE NICE.
PLACE YOUR BETS NOW! AS WE PRESENT...
THE GREEN SCAR!!!
THE INDESTRUCTIBLE, IMMORTAL HULK!
VS
THE GOLDEN AVENGER! THE THUNDER KING!
THE MIGHTY THOR!!!

HULK
VS
THOR
ROUND ONE!
FIGHT!

THOR! LISTEN TO ME! YOU CAN'T--
SEVENTEEN!!!
BOOOOM
SEVENTEEN? WHAT...WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN ALREADY?!
IS KILLING THIS EASY FOR YOU NOW?
BOOOM
SEVENTEEN, BRUCE.

CHUNK
AGHH!!!
RRR... GET...YOUR HAMMER...
SEVENTEEN PEOPLE DEAD IN EL PASO.
SEVENTEEN DEAD BECAUSE OF YOU.
I AM SORRY, BRUCE. BUT I BELIEVE YOU AND I BOTH KNOW IT WAS ALWAYS GOING TO END THIS WAY.
ONE CAN ONLY CAGE A MONSTER FOR SO LONG.
AND SO THIS FALLS TO ME, OLD FRIEND. I'M AFRAID THIS IS GOODBYE. IF IT EASES YOU...I WILL NOT REVEL IN THIS VICTORY. I WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOU AS--
RAAAGHHH!!! THAT WASN'T ME!!!
THOR! PLEASE! LET ME UP AND I CAN--
PLEASE. STOP. MJOLNIR WILL NOT BE MOVED. AND NEITHER SHALL I.
RAAGHHHH!!!

COMPUTER, INCREASE ENGINE ROOM TO LEVEL EIGHT AND HOLD.
BUT SIR. WE ARE PINNED DOWN BY THE HAMMER OF THOR. IT CANNOT BE MOVED. NO MATTER HOW STRONG OR ANGRY WE--
HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT?
...YOUR MEMORY FILES, SIR. I HAVE ACCESS TO EVERY FIGHT THAT YOU HAVE--
EXACTLY. GIVE ME FULL HAPTICS. SLAVE CONTROLS TO ME.
I'M GOING IN.
SIR, I HIGHLY RECOMMEND AGAINST THIS COURSE OF ACTION.
NOTED. WE'VE FOUGHT HIM AND BEAT HIM BEFORE.

I'M NOT SCARED.
SIR, IF I MAY... THE HULK HAS FOUGHT HIM.
NOT YOU.
EXACTLY.
WE'VE FOUGHT HARDER...
...LET'S FIGHT SMARTER.
RUN DIAGNOSTICS. I NEED DATA. I NEED EVERY FIGHT.
SIR?
YOU SAID YOU HAVE ACCESS TO EVERY FIGHT WE'VE EVER HAD, RIGHT? EVERY TIME THE HULK HAS CLASHED WITH THOR?
FILES FOUND, SIR. ARE YOU SURE ABOUT--?
GIVE IT TO ME. I WANT TO FEEL IT.
EVERY PUNCH. EVERY BATTLE. I WANT TO FEEL IT!
DO IT!!! DO IT RIGHT N--

RAAAGGHHH!!!

RAAGGHHH!!!
no...
GODS...
UGHH... HGHHH...
RHHGGHRRR

THOR.
PICK UP YOUR HAMMER.
AYE.
NOW.
WHERE WERE WE?

OH YEAH... HULK!
SMASH!!!
AGHH!
KOOOMMMM
GET UP, BOY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
I'M-- TRYING, DAMN YOU!
FINE. MUST I DO EVERYTHING?!
TRYING WHAT?
TRYING TO BREATHE? TO MOVE?
SORRY, THOR. I TRIED TO REASON WITH YOU. I DID.
BUT YOU ARE NOT GOING TO TAKE ME IN. I'M SORRY, I AM, BUT THIS IS WHERE THIS--
BOOM
...ENDS?

RMMMBBBLL
HA! IS THAT RAIN?! YOU THINK YOUR THUNDERSTORMS ARE GOING TO HURT ME?!
NOT... THUNDER...
WHAT?
THAT WAS MJOLNIR...
...BREAKING THE SOUND BARRIER.
...
WHAT?
KRAKADOOOOOM

BOOOM
THOR, LISTEN TO ME. WHEN I STRUCK HULK, I...FELT SOMETHING. SOMETHING IS--
--WRONG. YES, I FEEL IT AS WELL. IT'S AS IF HE'S POSSESSED...
NOT POSSESSED. NO...
"...HAUNTED."
UGGHH...
LET ME LOOSE, SON. I HAVE AN IDEA...
AYE.
BANNER! IF YOU WILL NOT RELENT--IF YOU WILL NOT LISTEN TO REASON...
BOOOM

...THEN PERHAPS YOU WILL LISTEN TO *THIS!*
EVASIVE MANEUVERS! NOW! NOW! N--
BOOOOOOM
BOOOM
AGHH!!!
BRUCE BANNER...
NO...

...I WOULD HAVE WORDS WITH THEE.
CONTINUED IN THOR #25!

NEXT

BANNER OF WAR

continues in ***THOR* #25**

Banner's newfound control of Hulk's rage is prolonging the fight more than Thor expected, so Thor must get creative.

ENTER ODIN!

BANNER OF WAR CHECKLIST:

PART TWO - **THOR #25**
PART THREE - **HULK #7**
PART FOUR - **THOR #26**
CONCLUSION - **HULK #8**

ZONE